

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of validating a customer in a retail membership club, the method comprising:

receiving a membership validation request, including identifying indicia, from a remote retail location, the identifying indicia being extracted from an identification document of a user by an identification document reader at the remote retail location;

querying a remote database for validation of the customer;

receiving an indication of membership validation from the database; and

transmitting the indication to the remote retail location.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

if the indication is positive, transmitting information about the customer's purchase for storage in the remote database.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

if the indication is positive, providing the customer access to the remote retail location.